(b) if so, the details thereof; *inter alia* indicating those that would be covered in Orissa State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) In accordance with section 1(3) of the NatIonal Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA),2005, the Act shall be applicable to the whole of the territory, to which it extends, within a reriod of five years from the date of its enactment. NREGA was enacted on 7th September, 2005. All districts are to be covered under the Act by 7th September, 2010. The act has already been extended to 330 districts in two phases. At present there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to extend it to 200 more districts.

Committee for amending Land Acquisition Act, 1894

1800. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formed a Committee to study changes in the 1894 Land Acquisition Act;

(b) the name and members of this Committee;

(c) whether any non-officials have been included in the said Committee;

(d) the steps proposed to protect land-owners from being victims of arbitrary acquisitions by diverse State Governments; and

(e) the date by when all changes proposed in the Land Acquisition Act will be ready?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (e) No Committee have been framed by the Government of India to study changes in the Land Acquisition Act, 1894. However, suitable amendments to the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 and revision of the National Policy on Resettlement and Rehabilitation of Project Affected Families, 2003 is under active consideration of the Government. Currently, the matter is being examined by a Group of Ministers (GoM) constituted by the Cabinet Secretariat to finalize the drafts of the Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy and associated legislative measures in cases relating to land acquisition, for consideration of the Cabinet. After the drafts are finalized by the GoM, the same may be taken to the Cabinet for consideration.

Utilisation of NREG funds for energy crops

1801. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state whether Government permits or has a mechanism for utilisation of NREG funds for development of energy crops like Jatropha by private sector enterprises?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): Tree Plantation is a permissible activity under National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. Plantation of energy crops like Jatropha

may, therefore, be taken up under the Act. However, private sector enterprises are not involved in the process of providing employment under the Act.

Final list of BPL families in Rajasthan

1802. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) by when the final list of BPL are likely to be published in Rajasthan;

(b) whether Government have received any complaints regarding anomalies in the said lists;

(c) if so, the measures taken to sort out such anomalies;

(d) whether the number of BPL families in Rajasthan has increased or decreased; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHU VANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (e) The Government of Rajasthan have finalized the New BPL list for the State on the basis of BPL Census, 2002 after getting it approved by the Gram Sabha/Ward Sabha and already posted it on the portal *http: bpl2002.raj.nic.in*. In order to remove the anomalies if any, and to redress the public grievances, a provision of two-stage appeal mechanism has already been provided in the guidelines. Any person having objection to the new BPL list, can file the first appeal with the Tehsildar/SDM as the case may be and the second and the final appeal can be filed with the Collector. A large number of objections were raised by the people which has been disposed off through this mechanism. On the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, a provision has been made to allow new names to be added and ineligible names deleted from the BPL list on a continuous basis during the period to which the list applies. The State Government had also issued directions to the District Collectors for *suo moto* verification of the BPL list where variation is more than 30% as compared to earlier BPL list of 1997.

The number and proportion of people living Below the Poverty Line in the country and in a State is estimated by the Planning Commission which is the official Poverty Estimates. However, through the BPL Census, the exercise is carried out only to identify the BPL rural households who could be assisted under the programmes of this Ministry. For BPL Census 2002 the States were given option to identify the number of BPL households which may be equal to the Poverty Estimates of 1999-2000 or the Adjusted Share whichever is higher and another 10% flexibility was given to account for transient poor.

Safe drinking water under B.N.P.

1803. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that very little has been done in the Government's ambitious Bharat Nirman Programme to provide sources of safe drinking water to all